



NASA Langley's ZONE (Zeroing Out Negative Effects)

Biofeedback training for optimal
athletic performance

ZONE is an innovative method for improving athletes' responses to stress, anxiety, and loss of concentration during competition. In the training environment, when the user successfully attains an optimal target state of psychophysiological functioning, the technology informs and/or rewards that user through real-time physical changes in the athletic equipment. For example, in the training setting, a golfer can work toward optimal concentration in the act of putting, leading to improved performance in real situations.

Benefits

- Improves responses to stress, anxiety, and loss of concentration during competition
- Appeals to users by embedding biofeedback training in actual athletic task required to perform better
- User simultaneously masters muscle skill and optimal mental state for executing in real situations

partnership opportunity





Applications

The technology offers wide-ranging market applications, including:

- Sports psychology – improving skill-based performance
 - golf, tennis, baseball, football, hockey, basketball, lacrosse
- Marksmanship training – improving aim and concentration
- Video gaming – mental game technology leveraging motion sensor controllers
- Defense – special forces training

The Technology

The system uses perturbation feedback to help the athlete get into “the zone” through an original method of ZONE—the method allows a trainee to learn physiological self-regulation in order to modify the difficulty of the performance task and/or environment in which training is conducted. For example, better concentration leads to a variety of easier conditions on a training putting green.

The technology incorporates software and hardware to provide real-time feedback to the athlete about how close his or her arousal and emotive responses are to an optimal state required to successfully perform the athletic task. This innovation presents the capability to extend current sports training and psychological practices of guided imagery visualization and cognitive reinforcement learning by systematically providing demonstrable and relevant feedback through the use of closed-loop, cybernetic feedback principles that provide immediate reinforcement of psychophysiological self-regulation and translate into better skill-based performance.

The ZONE technology includes U.S. patent application number 20060057549.



Increasing Concentration

Effect of concentration brainwaves on putting hole size in ZONE training setting

For More Information

If your company is interested in licensing or joint development opportunities associated with this technology, or if you would like additional information on partnering with NASA, please contact:

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